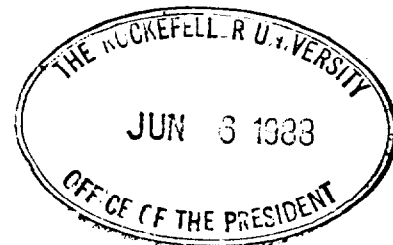


THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY



Department of Chemistry

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June 3, 1988

Professor Joshua Lederberg
Office of the President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021-6399

Dear Professor Lederberg:

Thank you so much for your kind note of April 28, 1988, about our book, "Organic Chemistry: The Name Game." (Please forgive this late acknowledgement. I have recently returned from a trip and was not able to respond sooner.)

I agree with you completely that "trivial" nomenclature is at odds with the logic of organic chemistry education. Whether, in the long run, coined terminology helps or hinders this educational process, I can't say. Our book was more an attempt to place items on record rather than make judgements about them. But, I am guilty with the rest when it comes to coining new terms.

Thanks also for including your reprint and excerpt about artificial intelligence, chemical graphs, etc. I will certainly keep these on file for possible future use in a revision or in an update article. As you realize, Carl Djerassi graciously contributed some material for our book. I have since learned that he has added "short story writing" to his accomplishments; I have read one of them (Castor's Dilemma) and found it absolutely intriguing.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Nickon

Alex Nickon
Professor of Chemistry

✓ 6/6/88

to David

or

AN:jje